

Furthermore, we should recognize that if the regime in Tehran ever finds itself on the verge of collapse—and many of us pray for that day—its leaders may decide to go out with a bang.

Preventing Iranian nuclear possession is critical to world peace, and we can still succeed in accomplishing that goal, but we have to act quickly. The good news is we have used only 1 percent of the tools that are available to us, and therefore we can do a lot more. The bad news is we've used only about 1 percent of the tools available to us. We have demonstrated a lack of political will to use the methods that we have to use to put pressure on the Iranian regime.

Now, President-elect Obama has a strong record of working to put pressure on the Iranian regime. He voted for the Lautenberg amendment, which would have prevented U.S. oil companies from doing business with Iran through their foreign subsidiaries. And he authored a bill that would have encouraged divestment from firms—chiefly oil companies—doing business with Iran.

He will have the ability, when he takes office, to go a long way toward increasing the price the Iranian Government pays for its stance on the nuclear issue and its support for terrorism. First, he can stop U.S. oil companies from using their overseas subsidiaries from doing business with Iran. We should also do that by legislation.

The administration can start enforcing the Iran Sanctions Act. We can demand that the World Bank stop dispersing funds to Iran in the form of concessionary loans which have not been effectively opposed by the current administration. We can deny nuclear cooperation agreements to countries that provide technologies to Iran. We can deny insurance to ships that carry cargo to Iran. And we can put economic pressure on American foreign companies seeking to build liquefied natural gas plants in Iran and those that sell refined petroleum—chiefly gasoline—to Iran.

Now, while Iran is oil rich, it needs to import nearly half its gasoline because it lacks refinery capacity. I'm here to bring to the House's attention one recent success. The Indian press is reporting that as a result of pressure that was initiated in the Congress, a major Indian petroleum refinery is halting its business dealings with Iran. I want to thank the several of my colleagues who joined with me in sending a letter to the U.S. Import-Export Bank to demand that EX-IM not provide loans to this particular Indian refinery as long as the Indian refinery was supporting Iran and providing it with the gasoline it needs.

I look forward to being able to convince Iranian elites that they face other economic and diplomatic isolation if they continue their nuclear program and continue their support for terror, and there are many other ways that we can achieve that objective. I

invite my colleagues again to see more details at bradsherman.house.gov.

SANCTITY OF HUMAN LIFE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I believe that there is no greater moral issue that America faces that is more important than the killing of 4,000 babies every day through abortion. God cannot and will not continue to bless America while we're killing those innocent unborn children.

As we ring in the new year and begin the 111th Congress, the need to protect the unborn remains front and center in the national political debate. Each year, in keeping with my promise to my constituents and many around the country that the first bill that I will introduce provides constitutional protections to unborn children, today I'm honored to introduce the Sanctity of Human Life Act, H.R. 227, that defines life beginning at fertilization with the creation of a human zygote, a one-celled human being.

As a physician, I understand the medical and scientific truths that life begins at fertilization. I also understand that the entire abortion debate rests on the decision of when life begins. That's why my bill, among other things, says unequivocally that at the moment of fertilization, when this spermatozoa enters the cell wall of the oocyte and forms that one-celled human being, the zygote, that a human life begins and must be protected under law.

As James Madison wrote in Federalist 39, the form of our government must be "reconcilable with the fundamental principles of the revolution," the American Revolution. First among those principles is the right to life. If a nation will not protect the most innocent of human beings, who will we protect? Concerned citizens and lawmakers must keep this fundamental principle in mind as we work fervently to protect the rights of unborn children.

When I was a full-time doctor prior to coming to Congress, I served on the board of directors for a crisis pregnancy center in inner-city Atlanta, Georgia. We were fighting to save babies of underprivileged moms, many black moms in Atlanta. From a statistical standpoint, more black babies are being killed proportionately through abortion than white babies, and we were working to save those children.

I'm using the tools that my constituents have blessed me with to protect life and give constitutional protections to the innocent unborn. My bill, the Sanctity of Human Life Act, gives Republicans and Democrats alike who cherish life an opportunity to protect and defend the innocent and most defenseless among us.

We need to pass the Sanctity of Human Life Act. I encourage my col-

leagues to get on this bill, support this bill, bring it to the floor for a vote, and stop killing these unborn children so God will continue to bless America.

ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Democratic Caucus, I offer a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 24

Resolved, That the following named Members be and are hereby elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

(1) COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS.—Mr. Murtha, Mr. Dicks, Mr. Mollohan, Ms. Kaptur, Mr. Visclosky, Mrs. Lowey, Mr. Serrano, Ms. DeLauro, Mr. Moran of Virginia, Mr. Olver, Mr. Pastor, Mr. Price of North Carolina, Mr. Edwards, Mr. Kennedy of Rhode Island, Mr. Hinchey, Ms. Roybal-Allard, Mr. Farr, Mr. Jackson of Illinois, Ms. Kilpatrick of Michigan, Mr. Boyd of Florida, Mr. Fattah, Mr. Rothman, Mr. Bishop of Georgia, Mr. Berry, Ms. Lee, Mr. Schiff, Mr. Honda, Ms. McCollum of Minnesota, Mr. Israel, Mr. Ryan of Ohio, Mr. Ruppersberger, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Wasserman Schultz, Mr. Rodriguez, Mr. Lincoln Davis of Tennessee, Mr. Salazar.

(2) COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES.—Mr. Spratt, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Abercrombie, Mr. Reyes, Mr. Snyder, Mr. Smith of Washington, Ms. Loretta Sanchez of California, Mr. McIntyre, Mrs. Tauscher, Mr. Brady of Pennsylvania, Mr. Andrews, Mrs. Davis of California, Mr. Langevin, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Cooper, Mr. Marshall, Ms. Bordallo, Mr. Boren, Mr. Ellsworth, Mr. Patrick Murphy of Pennsylvania, Mr. Johnson of Georgia, Ms. Shea-Porter, Mr. Courtney, Mr. Loebsack, Mrs. Gillibrand, Mr. Sestak, Ms. Giffords, Ms. Tsongas, Mr. Nye, Ms. Pingree of Maine, Mr. Kissell, Mr. Heinrich, Mr. Kravotil, Mr. Massa, Mr. Bright.

(3) COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE.—Mr. Dingell, Mr. Markey, Mr. Boucher, Mr. Pallone, Mr. Gordon of Tennessee, Mr. Rush, Ms. Eshoo, Mr. Stupak, Mr. Engel, Mr. Gene Green of Texas, Ms. DeGette, Mrs. Capps, Mr. Doyle, Ms. Harman, Ms. Schakowsky, Mr. Gonzalez, Mr. Inslee, Ms. Baldwin, Mr. Ross, Mr. Weiner, Mr. Matheson, Mr. Butterfield, Mr. Melancon, Mr. Barrow, Mr. Hill, Ms. Matsui, Mrs. Christensen, Ms. Castor, Mr. Sarbanes, Mr. Murphy of Connecticut, Mr. Space, Mr. McNERney, Ms. Sutton, Mr. Braley of Iowa, Mr. Welch.

(4) COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES.—Mr. Kanjorski, Ms. Waters, Mrs. Maloney, Mr. Gutierrez, Ms. Velazquez, Mr. Watt, Mr. Ackerman, Mr. Sherman, Mr. Meeks of New York, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Hinojosa, Mr. Clay, Mrs. McCarthy of New York, Mr. Baca, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Miller of North Carolina, Mr. Scott of Georgia, Mr. Al Green of Texas, Mr. Cleaver, Ms. Bean, Mr. Moore of Kansas, Mr. Hodes, Mr. Ellison, Mr. Klein of Florida, Mr. Wilson of Ohio, Mr. Perlmutter, Mr. Donnelly of Indiana, Mr. Foster, Mr. Carson of Indiana, Ms. Speier, Mr. Childers, Mr. Minnick, Mr. Adler of New Jersey, Ms. Kilroy, Mr. Driehaus, Ms. Kosmas, Mr. Grayson, Mr. Himes, Mr. Peters, Mr. Maffei.

(5) COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE.—Mr. Rahall, Mr. DeFazio, Mr. Costello, Ms. Norton, Mr. Nadler of New

York, Ms. Corrine Brown of Florida, Mr. Filner, Ms. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas, Mr. Taylor, Mr. Cummings, Mrs. Tauscher, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Holden, Mr. Baird, Mr. Larsen of Washington, Mr. Capuano, Mr. Bishop of Utah, Mr. Michaud, Mr. Carnahan, Mrs. Napolitano, Mr. Lipinski, Ms. Hirono, Mr. Altmire, Mr. Walz, Mr. Shuler, Mr. Arcuri, Mr. Mitchell, Mr. Carney, Mr. Hall of New York, Mr. Kagen, Mr. Cohen, Ms. Richardson, Mr. Sires, Ms. Edwards of Maryland, Mr. Ortiz, Mr. Hare, Mr. Boccieri, Mr. Schauer, Ms. Markey of Colorado, Mr. Griffith, Mr. McMahon, Mr. Perriello, Ms. Titus, Mr. Teague.

(6) COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS.—Mr. Stark, Mr. Levin, Mr. McDermott, Mr. Lewis of Georgia, Mr. Neal of Massachusetts, Mr. Tanner, Mr. Becerra, Mr. Doggett, Mr. Pomeroy, Mr. Thompson of California, Mr. Larson of Connecticut, Mr. Blumenauer, Mr. Kind, Mr. Pascrell, Ms. Berkley, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Van Hollen, Mr. Meek of Florida, Ms. Schwartz of Pennsylvania, Mr. Davis of Alabama, Mr. Davis of Illinois, Mr. Etheridge, Ms. Linda T. Sanchez of California, Mr. Higgins, Mr. Yarmuth.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon in support of the beleaguered people of the State of Israel. I rise in support of the only democracy in the Middle East. I rise in support of the country in the Middle East that has the same values that our great country, the United States of America, has, principles of democracy and principles that are so important to every man, woman and child.

The people of Israel have for 60 years been vilified by undemocratic powers and by powers that would wish to destroy it. For the past several years, day in and day out the people of Israel have had to endure rocket attacks coming from the terrorist organization that runs Gaza called Hamas. Israel is supposed to just accept these attacks on its citizens and do little or nothing about it if you would listen to the United Nations, if you would listen to the international community, if you would listen to these hypocritical demonstrations going on in London and all the Arab capitals and everywhere else, and even some in the United States.

Every country, every government's primary responsibility is to protect its citizens, and the people of Israel and the Government of Israel should not be held to any other standard than that.

The terrorist organization that runs Gaza called Hamas, bought and paid for

by Iran, thinking that it can use terrorism as a way of somehow getting its state, must understand that in order to gain acceptance of nations in the free world, that it needs to renounce terror, that it needs to recognize Israel's right to exist, and that it needs to abide by all previous resolutions that were signed by the Palestinian Authority. It doesn't do it because it's a terrorist state. It doesn't do it because its vow is to destroy the Jewish State of Israel. It doesn't do it because, like Hezbollah and like Osama bin Laden and like al Qaeda, it thinks it can use terrorism to establish its aims and goals, but it cannot.

We stand in a bipartisan fashion with the people of Israel because if we in the United States had missiles being fired onto our innocent civilians from states across the border, we would move across the border and try to stop those terrorists from killing our people. That's what Israel is doing.

Many of us on the Foreign Affairs Committee this morning met with the Israeli ambassador and we saw a tape where Israel takes great precaution to try to prevent civilian casualties. But what Hamas does is it builds its bomb factories and it builds its terror weapons in the heart of the densely populated areas of Gaza and uses its own people as human shields. And so when the Israelis destroy these missile-making and bomb-making terror factories, innocent civilians very unfortunately get killed. But it is the Palestinians that support Hamas. It's the Hamas organization that is responsible for these killings. Israel has an absolute right to defend itself.

Now, we all want a cease-fire. We all want peace in the region. And we all know that ultimately peace will come when there is a two-state solution, an Israeli Jewish state and a Palestinian Arab state. The problem is most Israelis do accept the fact that there ought to be a Palestinian state, but the Palestinians, Hamas, does not accept the viability of Israel as a Jewish state.

And so let's put things in perspective here. If you have people that want to destroy you and want to kill you and don't recognize your right to exist, how can we have peace in the region?

We ought to note that Israel pulled out of Gaza several years ago and left Gaza to the Palestinians. And what did it get in return? It got missiles fired on its citizens in Syrot and other places in return for Israel leaving Gaza. The Palestinians used to say, well, it's the occupation, that's what drives everything. What occupation is there in Gaza? There is none. Israel has left Gaza. And the people of Gaza could have built a democratic government living in peace with its neighbors; instead, they chose to embrace terrorism and try to kill as many Israelis as they can.

So, in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, let me say that support for Israel in this Congress is strong and it is bipartisan

and will remain so because we understand that the democratic nation of Israel has a right to exist, and the government of Israel has a right to protect its citizens.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL,
Washington, DC, January 6, 2009.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a civil subpoena, issued by the Superior Court for the District of Columbia, for the production of documents.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I will make the determinations required by Rule VIII.

Sincerely,

DANIEL P. BEARD,
Chief Administrative Officer.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOUCHER (at the request of Mr. HOYER) for January 6 after 3:30 p.m. on account of family illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SHERMAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. POE of Texas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, January 14.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, for 5 minutes, January 8.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, January 14.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KENNEDY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WOLF, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 14 minutes